

bahai

The **Bahá'í Faith** is a global religion founded by [Bahá'u'lláh](#) in 19th century [Persia](#). Bahá'ís believe that the history of religion is an unfolding process of education planned by God, and that the founders of religions are God's messengers and teachers of this Plan. [Bahá'u'lláh](#) is seen as the most recent, pivotal, but not final of God's messengers. He claimed to be the long-expected educator and teacher of all peoples, prophesied in [Christianity](#), [Islam](#), [Buddhism](#), and other religions, and that his mission was to establish a firm basis for unity throughout the world, and inaugurate an age of peace and justice, which Bahá'ís expect will inevitably arise.

Fundamental to [Bahá'í teachings](#) are the principles of the [oneness of God](#); the [oneness of religion](#); and the [oneness of humanity](#). These principles have a profound impact on the theological and social teachings of this religion.

"**Bahá'í**" (*Ba-haa-ee* or [ba'haʔi]) is either an adjective referring to this religion or the term for a follower of Bahá'u'lláh, and not a noun referring to the religion as a whole. The term comes from the Arabic word [Bahá'](#), meaning "glory" or "splendor", بهاء.

Religious intolerance has been around a long time. That's why the Bahai religion has had such success. Although the world's youngest religion--fewer than 200 years old--it preaches a syncretism and tolerance that appeals to a growing number of people, including Christians; most people of the Bahai faith in the United States come from Christian backgrounds.

Bahai emerged from Babism, which sprang out of Islam by way of a young man who called himself Baha'u'llah, which means "glory of God." He claimed to be the savior promised by Babism and he was accepted as such: His teachings spread rapidly even though he spent much of his time in prison.

The Bahai faith teaches a universal tolerance of all people, regardless of background or differences. They argue that all religions are united in a few basic essentials. They have no clergy since all people are equal in the eyes of God. Salvation is for all people no matter what may be their specific faith or practice. They also put great emphasis on education, believing that ignorance is a source of most of the world's evils.

There is a certain appeal to the Bahai faith. Its attempt to draw everyone together under the same religious and theological umbrella is attractive. However, it is incompatible with Christianity. While Christians would uphold many of the same virtues as the Bahai's, the Bible is clear. There is *one* way to God: Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 NASU

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.